

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 MC-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 DRC-01 /160 W

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R 041825Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9311

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 7032

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BE, GE

SUBJECT: GDR FOREIGN MINISTER WINZER'S VISIT TO BELGIUM

1. GDR FOREIGN MINISTER OTTO WINZER PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO BELGIUM NOVEMBER 27-30, THE FIRST EAST GERMAN TRIP AT THAT LEVEL TO ANY WESTERN COUNTRY. OTHERWISE, THE VISIT BROKE NO NEW GROUND, THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON NOVEMBER 30 PRAISES DETENTE, FRG AGREEMENTS WITH EASTERN COUNTRIES, IMPROVEMENT IN US-SOVIET RELATIONS, CSCE AND MBFR, WITH THE LAST TERMED AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD A CONFERENCE ON GENERAL, COMPLETE AND CONTROLLED DISARMAMENT. THE PARTIES TO THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT UNSC RESOLUTION 242 IN ALL ITS PROVISIONS AND THE RESOLUTIONS OF OCTOBER 1973 WILL LEAD TO A PEACEFUL AND EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT. COPIES HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO BONN, BERLIN AND THE DEPARTMENT (EUR/CE AND EUR/WE), AS HAVE COPIES OF AN ARTICLE ON DETENTE BY WINZER PUBLISHED IN THE NOVEMBER 28 EDITION OF "LA LIBRE BELGIQUE".

2. REUSENS, FONOFF DIRECTOR OF EE AND SOVIET SERVICE, TELLS US THAT THE INVITATION TO WINZER WAS MADE PERSONALLY BY BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE AT THE UNGA IN NEW YORK AND THAT IT CAUGHT THE MINISTRY BY SURPRISE. WINZER REPORTEDLY ACCEPTED WITH ALACRITY, ANXIOUS TO VISIT THE WEST BEFORE GIVING WAY AS FOREIGN MINISTER TO SOMEBODY YOUNGER (PROBABLY THE GDR'S UN REPRESENTATIVE, PETER FLORIN), ACCORDING TO REUSENS, THE TWO SIDES TREATED EACH OTHER TO PRESENTATIONS OF KNOWN POSITIONS ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. ON THE BILATERAL FRONT, WINZER AND VAN ELSLANDE SIGNED AN AGREEMENT ON ROAD TRAFFIC AND DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE AGREEMENTS ON AVIATION, CULTURAL RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC, TECHICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, BUT THE BELGIANS TURNED ASIDE GDR REQUESTS FOR A CONSULAR AGREEMENT ON THE GROUNDS THAT PRIOR BENELUX CONSULTATIONS ARE REQUIRED. NEGOTIATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE IN 1974 IN THE EXPECTATION THAT ONE OR MORE AGREEMENTS WILL BE READY FOR SIGNATURE WHEN VAN ELSLANDE REPAYS WINZER'S VISIT. (NO DATE HAS BEEN SET, AND POLITICAL DIRECTOR DAVIGNON, WHO WILL PRECEDE VAN ELSLANDE, WILL NOT GO TO THE GDR BEFORE NEXT SPRING.)

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3. REUSENS INFORMS US THAT, DURING THE DISCUSSION OF AN AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, WINZER KEPT SLIPPING IN THE WORD "COMMERCIAL", UNTIL VAN ELSLANDE REMINDED HIM FIRMLY THAT COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE ARRANGED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EC. WINZER THEN ASKED SEVERAL TIMES WHEN THE EC WOULD RESPOND TO COMECON SECRETARY GENERAL

FADEYEV'S PROPOSAL (IN COPENHAGEN) FOR DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS, AND VAN ELSLANDE EACH TIME REPLIED THAT A RESPONSE HAD BEEN GIVEN (PRESUMABLY A REFERENCE TO THE EC'S UNDERTAKING TO HAVE THE COMMISSION CONDUCT A STUDY OF POSSIBLE EC-COMECON CONTACTS). ASIDE FROM THIS CONFUSING EPISODE, THE VISIT WENT SMOOTHLY AND WAS CONSIDERED A "SUCCESS" BY BOTH PARTIES, REUSENS SAID. WINZER WAS RECEIVED BY KING BAUDOUIN, PRIME MINISTER LEBURTON AND SENATE PRESIDENT HARMEL (HONORS ACCORDED TO ALL VISITING FOREIGN MINISTERS). LUXEMBOURG WAS HIS NEXT STOP.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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